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**Ohio State Engineer**

**Title:** Elimination of Waste

**Creators:** Smith, Reynolds E.

**Issue Date:** May-1921

**Publisher:** Ohio State University, College of Engineering

**Citation:** Ohio State Engineer, vol. 4, no. 4 (May, 1921), 26-27.

**URI:** <http://hdl.handle.net/1811/34138>

**Appears in Collections:** [Ohio State Engineer: Volume 4, no. 4 \(May, 1921\)](#)

## Elimination of Waste

REYNOLDS E. SMITH, M. E., '23

In his talk of March 15 under the auspices of the student branch of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Dr. Ira N. Hollis, President of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, former President of the A. S. M. E. and a member of Mr. Hoover's committee on the survey of industrial waste, discussed the engineer's relation to the elimination of waste. He asserted that the engineers of this country should be in close touch with each other through their various engineering societies and organizations. Such contact will increase the cooperation between engineers and materially aid their work in the elimination of waste. Engineers should have a prominent part in the government because their training fits them to deal with governmental problems as well as engineering problems.

Waste, according to Mr. Hollis, may be divided into two classes—non-renewable wastes and renewable wastes. War is an example of non-renewable waste of human life. The waste of our national resources such as coal, petroleum, and forests also comes under this class. There are many renewable wastes, one of the most important of which is that of machinery and caused by machinery. The uncertain and periodic oper-

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**ELIMINATION OF WASTE**

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ation of coal mines, together with inadequate railroad facilities, constitutes another large source. A more efficient national employment service is needed to cut down the wastes caused by labor friction such as strikes. Standardization of parts in manufacturing will do much to eliminate waste arising from too high a degree of individualism in basic products.

The demand grows for shorter hours with pay; but if a man wastes the extra time thus gained he does not deserve the shorter day. Civilization has progressed in proportion to the leisure time of a nation's people. The time left after they have earned the necessities of life gives them the opportunity to study how to better their conditions, and such study leads to progress. While leisure time leads to progress, the

history of civilization shows that the fall of every nation can be traced to waste.

Mr. Hollis closed his talk with a list of economic questions directly related to the country's present problems and requiring the attention of the prominent men of today.

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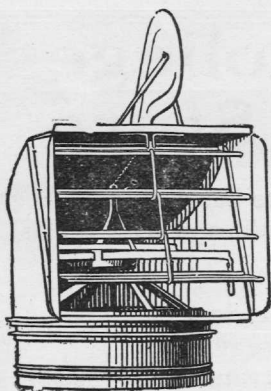
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